

NEW YORK TIMES

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000400120001-4

*S and*  
ARM-LETELIER 2TAKES

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCKS

APR. 1978 N.Y. TIMES NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON - THE FORMER CHIEF OF THE CHILEAN SECRET POLICE AND SIX OTHER PERSONS, INCLUDING FOUR MEMBERS OF A CUBAN NATIONALIST GROUP, WERE INDICTED TUESDAY ON CHARGES OF MURDERING ORLANDO LETELIER, A STRONG CRITIC OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WHO WAS KILLED IN 1976 WHEN HIS CAR WAS BLOWN UP ON A PUBLIC STREET HERE.

THE INDICTMENTS BY A FEDERAL GRAND JURY CONCLUDED THE INVESTIGATIVE PHASE OF A CASE THAT HAS SHARPLY DISRUPTED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHILE.

THE JURY CHARGED GEN. JUAN MANUEL CONTRERAS SEPULVEDA, UNTIL LAST YEAR HEAD OF CHILE'S NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE (DINA), WITH ORDERING THE ASSASSINATION OF LETELIER, A FORMER CHILEAN DEFENSE MINISTER WHO LIVED IN EXILE HERE AND WAS A LEADER OF OPPOSITION TO THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF CHILE'S PRESIDENT, GEN. AUGUSTO PINOCHET.

IT NAMED LT. COL. PEDRO ESPINOZA BRAVO, FORMER DINA OPERATIONS CHIEF; AND CAPT. ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS, AS PRINCIPALS IN CARRYING OUT THE PLOT.

THE GRAND JURY ALSO BROUGHT MURDER AND CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER CHARGES AGAINST GUILLERMO NOVO SAMPOL, ALVIN ROSS DIAZ, VIRGILIO PAZ ROMERO AND JOSE DIONISIO SUAREZ ESQUIVEL, FORMER CUBAN CITIZENS WHO NOW LIVE IN NEW JERSEY. THE MEN ARE LEADERS OF A MILITANT ANTI-COMMUNIST CUBAN POLITICAL GROUP. IT CHARGED A FIFTH CUBAN-AMERICAN, IGNACIO NOVO, WITH LYING TO A GRAND JURY AND FAILING TO REPORT A FELONY.

EARLIER, MICHAEL V. TOWNLEY, AN AMERICAN WHO HAD LIVED IN CHILE FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES, WAS CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDER. BOTH HE AND IGNACIO NOVO ARE REPORTED TO BE COOPERATING WITH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES AND ARE IN CUSTODY.

THE UNITED STATES WILL SEEK THE EXTRADITION OF CONTRERAS AND THE TWO OTHER CHILEANS, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SAID. CONTRERAS IS REPORTEDLY A CLOSE CONFIDANT OF PRESIDENT PINOCHET, AND SEVERAL U.S. GOVERNMENT SOURCES SUGGESTED THAT CHILE MIGHT REFUSE TO DELIVER HIM TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

*abs Letelier  
file before*

# NEW YORK TIMES

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000400120001-4

## LETELIER

THE BOMB THAT KILLED LETELIER SEPT. 21, 1976, ALSO CAUSED THE DEATH OF RONNI MOFFITT, LETELIER'S RESEARCH ASSISTANT, AND WOUNDED HER HUSBAND, MICHAEL MOFFITT.

IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW, MOFFITT, SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF AND ISABEL LETELIER, THE MURDERED MAN'S WIDOW, SAID THAT THE INDICTMENT SHOWED THE "UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT WE HAVE NEVER STRAYED FROM: WE SAID THAT FROM DAY ONE THAT THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE."

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE INVESTIGATION UNTIL THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO THE REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF THE ARMY OFFICERS, BUT WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE JOB THAT THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HAS DONE SO FAR. THEY OPERATED IN THE FACE OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN OPPOSITION AND INTERFERENCE," HE ADDED.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF IGNACIO NOVO AND TOWNLEY, ALL THE SUSPECTS FACE FOUR SEPARATE CHARGES THAT COULD CARRY LIFE IMPRISONMENT SENTENCES. GUILLERMO NOVO, IGNACIO'S BROTHER, WAS ALSO CHARGED WITH TWO COUNTS OF GIVING FALSE STATEMENTS TO A GRAND JURY, WHICH COULD RESULT IN A \$10,000 FINE AND 5 YEARS IMPRISONMENT ON EACH COUNT. IF CONVICTED, IGNACIO NOVO COULD RECEIVE UP TO 13 YEARS IN JAIL AND \$20,000 IN FINES.

ARM-LETELIER 1ST ADD

NYT WASH FINES.

IN THE INDICTMENT, THE GRAND JURY SAID THAT CONTRERAS "INITIATED THE ACTION WHICH BEGAN THE CONSPIRACY AND, EITHER ALONE OR WITH OTHERS UNKNOWN TO THE GRAND JURY, ORDERED THE ASSASSINATION OF ORLANDO LETELIER."

IN LISTING THE "OVERT ACTS" OF THE CONSPIRACY, THE JURY FOR THE FIRST TIME OUTLINED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES MAY HAVE BEEN THE STEPS IN THE PLOT.

ACCORDING TO ITS CHARGES, IN JULY 1976 CONTRERAS ORDERED FERNANDEZ TO TAKE ON A "TWO-MAN MISSION" AND TO GET HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM ESPINOZA.

IT WAS ESPINOZA WHO ORDERED FERNANDEZ AND TOWNLEY TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES AND ARRANGE THE MURDER OF LETELIER, THE JURY CHARGED.

THE JURY SAID THAT PASSPORTS AND FALSE IDENTIFICATION WERE OBTAINED IN CHILE AND PARAGUAY WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE PARAGUAYAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.

# NEW YORK TIMES

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000400120001-4

## LETELIER

ON AUG. 26, FERNANDEZ, THE JURY SAID, WAS ASSIGNED TO STALK LETELIER IN WASHINGTON, ACCCOMPANIED BY LILIANA WALKER MARTINEZ, DESCRIBED BY THE JURY AS "ANOTHER DINR AGENT." IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE HAD BEEN MENTIONED PUBLICLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE.

TWELVE DAYS LATER, TOWNLEY WAS SENT TO THE UNITED STATES TO RECRUIT THE ASSASSINATION TEAM, THE JURY SAID. HE AND FERNANDEZ MET AT KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SEPT. 3, AND TOWNLEY RECEIVED THE INFORMATION ABOUT LETELIER'S MOVEMENTS.

ON SEPT. 13, THE INDICTMENT CHARGED, TOWNLEY MET WITH FOUR CUBAN-AMERICANS AND DISCUSSED THE PLOT. TWO DAYS LATER, TWO OF THE CUBANS GAVE TOWNLEY AND VIRGILIO EXPLOSIVES AND A REMOTE CONTROLLED ELECTRONIC DETONATING DEVICE, WHICH THE PAIR CARRIED BY CAR TO WASHINGTON, THE JURY SAID. ON SEPT. 19, USING PARTS PURCHASED FROM A SEARS ROEBUCK STORE, TWO CUBAN-AMERICANS AND TOWNLEY CONSTRUCTED A BOMB IN A DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON MOTEL ROOM, THE JURY CHARGED.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, TOWNLEY PLACED THE CHARGE UNDERNEATH LETELIER'S CAR AT THE FORMER CHILEAN DIPLOMAT'S HOME IN THE NEARBY SUBURB OF GETHSEMANI, THE JURY SAID.

"ON OR ABOUT SEPT. 19, 1976, MICHAEL TOWNLEY TELEPHONED CHILE AND TOLD HIS WIFE, MARIANA INES CALLEJAS DE TOWNLEY, WHO WAS ALSO AN AGENT OF DINR, TO ADVISE DINR THAT A BOMB HAD BEEN PLACED IN ORLANDO LETELIER'S CAR, WHICH SHE DID," THE JURY SAID.

TOWNLEY, THE JURY CHARGED, LEFT WASHINGTON AND WAS IN MIAMI SEPT. 21 WHEN THE BOMB WAS DETONATED, "KILLING ORLANDO LETELIER AND RONNI HOFFITT." THREE DAYS LATER, THE JURY SAID, HE "ADVISED PEDRO ESPINOZA THAT THE DINR MISSION TO ASSASSINATE ORLANDO LETELIER HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT."

THE CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE HAD BEEN TRAINED AND SUPPORTED BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, AND THE CIA, UNDER THE ORDERS OF PRESIDENT NIXON HAD UNDERMINED THE ADMINISTRATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE GOSENS, THUS PAVING THE WAY FOR PINOCHET TO TAKE POWER.

LETELIER, WHO HAD SERVED IN ALLENDE'S CABINET, WAS REGARDED BY MANY IN AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AS AN OPERATIVE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM.

NEW YORK TIMES

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000400120001-4

LETELIER

MRS. LETELIER AND HER HUSBAND'S ASSOCIATES AT THE RADICAL INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES HERE TOLD NEWSMEN EARLY IN THE CASE THAT THEY FELT THE UNITED STATES WOULD MAKE NO REAL ATTEMPT TO PLACE THE REAL BLAME FOR THE MURDER.

EVEN GOVERNMENT SOURCES ACKNOWLEDGED BY MID-1977 THAT THE INQUIRY SEEMED BOGGED DOWN AND MISDIRECTED. BUT THE PROSECUTOR IN CHARGE, EUGENE M. PROPPER, A 31-YEAR-OLD ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY HERE; AND CARTER CORNICKY, THE FBI AGENT IN CHARGE, PERSISTED DESPITE MANY INITIAL FRUSTRATIONS AND BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC PRESSURES.

0801 1843PED

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000400120001-4

4 of 4

REUTERS

R 234 R 12222)1BYLZYRUIV

URGENT!!!! LETELIER-ARRESTS

SANTIAGO, Aug 14. REUTER - THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TONIGHT ANNOUNCED THAT FORMER SECRET POLICE CHIEF MANUEL CONTRERAS HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOLLOWING HIS INDICTMENT BY A U.S. GRAND JURY ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRING TO MURDER FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ORLANDO LETELIER.

AN INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT SAID GENERAL CONTRERAS AND TWO OTHER CHILEAN OFFICERS, PEDRO ESPINOZA AND ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS, ALSO NAMED IN THE INDICTMENT, WERE BEING HELD AT A MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE "PREVENTIVE ARRESTS" WERE MADE AT THE REQUEST OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

MORE 2137

JL

235

R 12174)1BYLZYRHYD

LETELIER-ARRESTS 2 SANTIAGO

FOUR OTHER MEN ALSO FIGURED IN THE INDICTMENTS HANDED DOWN TODAY BY THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY AND IMMEDIATELY FILED IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN WASHINGTON.

GENERAL CONTRERAS WAS HEAD OF THE NOW-DISBANDED CHILEAN SECRET POLICE FORCE DINA AT THE TIME MR LETELIER WAS KILLED IN A CAR BOMB BLAST DURING HIS WASHINGTON EXILE. AN AMERICAN COLLEAGUE OF MR LETELIER, RONNI MOFFITT, ALSO DIED IN THE SEPTEMBER, 1976 BOMBING.

ACCORDING TO THE INDICTMENT, THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY HAD ONLY ONE OBJECTIVE -- "TO ASSASSINATE ORLANDO LETELIER" -- AND GENERAL CONTRERAS STOOD AT ITS HEAD.

CHILEAN PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET SAID RECENTLY THAT ANY EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR THE CHILEANS WOULD HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE SUPREME COURT AND NOT BY HIS GOVERNMENT.

FORMAL EXTRADITION REQUESTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

REUTER 2147

1 of 2

LETELIER ARRESTS

R-237.

R 122056YLZYZRZER

¶CORRECTION¶

IN LETELIER-ARRESTS SANTIAGO R-234 4TH GRAF FLS READ AT  
START ... FIVE OTHER MEN; ALL IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OF THE  
U.S.-BASED CUBAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENT; ALSO FIGURED ...  
(CORRECTING NUMBER AND ADDING INFORMATION ABOUT OTHERS  
INDICTED.)¶

REUTER 2204